

BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF
M. E. CAMERON

A MANUAL OF FEVER NURSING. By Reynold Webb Wilcox, M.A., M.D., LL.D., Professor of Medicine at New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital; Consulting Physician to the Nassau Hospital; Visiting Physician to St. Mark's Hospital, etc. Second Edition. Price, \$1.00 net. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

This volume consists of a series of lectures given to the nurses of St. Mark's Hospital. The subject is treated in the first five chapters generally, that is to say a lecture on the definition of fever; its causes; varieties, forms of recovery; recrudescence; relapse; range of temperature; symptoms. A second lecture on the thermometer; its use; charting and recording, etc., and so on through treatment, diet, disinfection, until at the fifth chapter the specific sorts of fevers are taken up and the treatment, so far as nursing is concerned, is discussed. The lectures have been put in shape for publication by Dr. H. H. Pelton, who has submitted some of the practical questions to Miss Annie M. Rykert, of the Margaret Fahnestock Training School for Nurses, so that the book comes to us with a sort of guarantee of merit.

MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES. With an Epitome of Official Drugs, Preparations and Chemicals, giving their Medicinal Uses and Doses; and Questions for Self-examination. By John E. Groff, Ph.G., Apothecary in the Rhode Island Hospital; Professor of Materia Medica in the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy. Fourth Revised Edition. Price, \$1.25 net. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

The fourth edition of this well-known work has been revised by Lucy C. Ayers, superintendent of Nurses' Training School of Rhode Island Hospital, with the collaboration of Dr. Herman C. Pitts. The special feature of the book is the list of questions following each chapter and

making self-examination possible and easy to the student. The last third of the book consists of an epitome of the official drugs, preparations, and chemicals, giving both Latin and English names; the synonym if there is one; the part of the plant used, or the origin, if chemical, with their medicinal uses and doses.

NURSING THE INSANE. By Clara Barrus, M.D., Woman Assistant Physician in the Middletown State Homeopathic Hospital, Middletown, N. Y. Price, \$2.00 net. The Macmillan Company, New York.

While this work forms a valuable addition to nursing literature, it is probable that its title will hardly convey a correct idea of its contents, and it is quite possible that disappointment awaits such readers as may be on the watch for strictly nursing methods taught by books. The writer knows her subject well—and writes with an enthusiasm most contagious—but in a general rather than a particular way and presupposing a knowledge of nursing methods in her readers that dispenses them from the necessity of learning by principle and practice the various subjects which make up the training of a nurse.

Having, however, removed from her mind that it is a text book on nursing, it is a book which every nurse would do well to read carefully, and keep by her for future reference if she has any idea of nursing the insane. This class has Dr. Barrus's sympathy enlisted; and it is hard to understand, after reading the book, why this class of nursing fails to appeal to the profession at large as it seems to do. Why it is left so much to a class who are not willing to spend the time, and devote themselves to the study, necessary to become registered nurses. Dr. Barrus claims that nurses for the insane require exceptional qualities of mind and character, that the lack of intelligence in the patient must be counteracted by a special intelligence in the nurse,—we heartily agree,—but what is actually true concerning the nurses who make up the majority in the enormous insane hospitals throughout the country, are they not for the most part drawn from the sources which provide the domestic service rank and file? Dr. Barrus quotes George Eliot in stating the need for humility and forbearance in the nursing of the insane. "To be anxious about a soul that is always snapping at you must be left to the saints of the earth." So that besides great mental capacity the nurse in this case must be a moral giant also, more than that, religious.

The book is ethical rather than technical, and this is not to be counted a fault, for it is not in the nature of a general training for nurses